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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

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Summary No. 28

KANSAS (September 15).--- Now total of 19,086 neighborhood leaders, both men and women, each responsible for 15 to 20 farm families.

In Victory Garden program figures show areas of gardens in State have increased 100 percent. Gardens in towns and cities are most numerous and productive ever reported. Fall garden planting program has resulted in most families maintaining early-season crops and planting late-maturing crops. Plans now being considered to continue program in 1943 and increase its scope and effectiveness. Some interest in Victory Garden Shows evinced.

Food preservation in excess of any recent year. Six emergency specialists added to force to give canning demonstrations in view of bumper garden crop. Publicity given to need to conserve peach crop as it was made available, as well as apple crop, and thus save vital food.

Extension forester assisted with farm fire prevention program in preparation of informational material to neighborhood leaders, news releases, exhibit for State fair. At State 4-H conservation camp, fire ladders were constructed with native lumber sawed by forester as part of another lesson in forestry.

Sawmill census of Kansas completed for Forest Service. Will furnish War Board with complete inventory of 1941 lumber production.

Efforts continued to stimulate better feeding of dairy cattle to attain dairy war goals. Culling meetings held to assist poultrymen in removing poor-producing birds from their flocks. Opportunity taken at these meetings to stress poultry house remodeling and proper housing of larger laying flocks which most farmers will have. Considerable interest shown in baled-straw poultry houses as temporary structures. Plans for such a house being distributed.

Fifty counties planted from a few sacks to several thousand sacks of certified Irish potato seed this year. In practically all counties certified seed was made available through efforts of county agent.

Much attention given to county 4-H fairs and achievement days, in hope that 4-H participation will be distinctly worth while in present war emergency. At 4-H conservation camp held in August program centered on contribution of clubs in field of wartime conservation. Health and nutrition, conservation of farm equipment, home repairing, use of home-produced lumber, farm and home safety, fire prevention included in program. State conference of club agents held to particular problems now facing club work and develop tentative wartime 4-H program for 1943.

MINNESOTA (September 1).-- Neighborhood leader plan in full operation. Regular letter carries information to leaders monthly, and county office make special local assignments. Indications are leaders are willing to do more than expected of them.

Fall and winter program planned at district conferences of agent committees, specialists, and administrative staff. Plan to streamline work to fit wartime conditions -- get job done with less time and travel, greater reliance on regular community channels of information and neighborhood leaders.

Continued push for dairy, poultry, swine products, beef, and wool to be carried forward by enlisting feed dealers in each county to give extension information to customers; holding trade center institutes on feeding and management; giving county agents special training and information materials to distribute through regular meetings of all kinds and through all possible information channels. Stress on economical feeding. Publications include "Feeding Wheat to Livestock" and one in preparation on greater use of protein concentrates.

All community agencies enlisted in fire prevention program to reach peak during fall months. Special effort to work with mutual insurance companies. Stress on checking hazards, organizing neighborhoods, and setting up fire-fighting agreements with villages. Pamphlet issued calling attention to hazards and containing check sheet.

Counties to continue effective program to combat living cost through news stories and radio transcriptions, booking of speakers, and stimulating local discussion. Minnesota newspapers totaling 225 have run series of anti-inflation articles prepared by extension economist.

Intensive program in buying and conservation of clothing in home demonstration agent counties; more general program with women neighborhood leaders carrying brunt of teaching in non-home demonstration agent counties. Pamphlets prepared: "I Will Buy Carefully" and "I Will Take Good Care of the Things I Have."

Feed situation points to great need next year for pastures and legume hay. Pasture committee welding agronomy, soils, animal husbandry, farm management extension aspects into unified program. Short cuts set up for getting newest information to agents and farmers. Much interest in pasture mixtures and in renovation.

Agents' conferences recommend streamlining of wartime 4-H programs to meet conditions of travel, and labor shortage. Staff working on revised 4-H schedules to meet need and pointing of 4-H effort more directly at winning the war. 2,300 4-H boys and girls took part in Victory program at Minnesota State Fair.



NORTH DAKOTA (September 1).-- Leaders trained in schools in all parts of State to bring direct to families information on methods of preserving vegetables and fruits. Neighborhood leaders and garden cooperators supplied with leaflet on vegetable storage. Garden tours held in many counties to drive home good gardening practices. Material on insect and disease control supplied through leaders.

Extension organizations in each county assisted Employment Service and served in setting up employment offices, providing farms with information on labor sources, and otherwise in meeting serious labor emergency. Neighborhood leaders supplied with information and served in promoting efficient distribution of labor supplies, full use of farm equipment and facilities, encouraging labor cooperation from towns.

Active campaign carried on to improve livestock production through attention to sanitation and disease control. Information prepared and circulated widely to encourage orderly marketing of livestock. Feeding of livestock and poultry to gain greater weights and increase production a major phase of livestock educational work. Literature on feeding prepared and distributed. Silage folder prepared.

Intensive work in each county to put grain storage program of CCC into effect, involving selection of sites, transportation problems, filling, and otherwise making effective the bins supplied by CCC. This effort coupled with effort already under way in State to provide adequate farm storage facilities. Circulars on permanent storage bin construction and on temporary bins prepared and distributed. Plan service and advisory help supplied farm builders through State and county offices.

Educational campaign on farm fire prevention and control continued, with emphasis on prairie and grass fires. Folder on preventing prairie fires prepared for wide distribution in September.

Campaign begun to conserve supplies of desirable rust-resistant varieties of seed flax for use in 1943 to meet expanded war requirements. Information released on varieties to save.

Urgency of scrap salvage program stressed. Preparing to resume intensive salvage campaign in fall. Information released on practices to encourage saving of machinery and equipment through careful use and sound maintenance. Waste fats campaign launched. Information directed to each community through neighborhood leaders.

Education programs for benefit of families under wartime conditions continued in every county. Nutrition and health information provided through homemakers' clubs. Clothing and other living problems received attention through club programs. Folder on war clothing problems prepared. Cooperation given in utilization of Victory Food Specials designated by AMA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE (September 1).-- Household Division of Civilian Defense so much impressed with neighborhood leader system that they are developing leaders in cities of State and all towns over 2,000 population. Letter sent by Extension to all rural families informing them of appointment of neighborhood leaders is being reprinted, with slight changes, for circulation among 80,000 urban families. Extension cooperating with Civilian Defense in urban work through home demonstration agent-at-large by helping city groups with problems in foods, clothing, household management, and other essentials of satisfactory home living.

Plans for further coordination of fire control and prevention to be stressed at State meeting at University. Meeting sponsored by University and Civilian Defense. Rural families have been supplied with check sheet for reducing fire hazards.

Neighborhood leaders carried on complete drive to sign up all rural families to pledge scrap materials for New Hampshire Scrap Harvest. Pledges turned over to town salvage chairmen.

State club leader organized plans, suggested by a State committee on youth work, to set up local youth leader in each town to coordinate activities of 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YWCA, YMCA, and other groups, along with youth not organized, in all community work such as fire fighting and prevention, scrap collection, civilian defense messenger service, etc. Plans for 4-H Victory Volunteers will be continued to enable all youth to get benefit of 4-H leadership in rural projects such as gardening, fire patrol training, canning, stock production.

Neighborhood leaders have managed to do much of their work without excessive travel and have enabled county extension staffs to reduce their travel. A fall meeting for training of leaders planned for October.

Special radio material, including spot announcements, continuity, dialogs, straight talks, and dramatized programs, both live and by recording, prepared for nutrition, scrap harvest, and Victory Specials. New weekly series of Extension Service transcription broadcasts inaugurated at Station WDEV, Waterbury, Vt., to cover northern area not easily reached by other stations.

County staffs are cooperating in many local agricultural fairs with special exhibits on nutrition, canning done with little or no sugar, or with sugar substitutes, garden crop storage. A State junior dairy show is planned at one of the larger fairs.



OREGON (September 1).-- During August agents in all counties continued to train leaders in neighborhood leader plan and in inflation control. In all counties where harvesting was at peak during August, intensive training of neighborhood leaders will be engaged in during September. Printed leaflets of instruction for community and neighborhood leaders prepared on farm transportation, enrichment of flour and bread, and salvage. Regular neighborhood leaders' radio program entitled "Neighborhood Leaders' Question Box" planned over station KOAC each Tuesday. Program conducted by 12 members of central extension staff in charge of neighborhood leader plan in various areas of State, and by State project leaders. Program devoted principally to answering questions submitted by leaders and to explaining various jobs neighborhood leaders will have to do. This radio station reaches more than 90 percent of rural people of State.

Reports indicate organization of rural fire protection crews more than justified. During July and August more than 150 fires were put under control by these crews. In Morrow County 20 grass and grain fires started by lightning were controlled with loss of only 200 acres grain. In Sherman County, another wheat county, losses by midsummer were about one-tenth of normal. In Crook County quick response of fire crews saved ranch buildings and hay on large ranch.

Agents cooperating with county farm labor subcommittees and with Federal Employment Service in dealing with acute labor problem. More cooperation between neighbors in harvesting encouraged; assistance given in mobilizing women, boys and girls, and older men to meet seasonal harvest emergency. Much attention directed to labor-saving devices. Report from Clatsop County typical. Here county agent has spent much time helping bentgrass growers secure labor for harvesting crop. A meeting was held for all bentgrass growers operating threshing machines. Labor situation for each operator was asked; agreements on wages, meals, and other working conditions, including transportation, and total number of men needed, were listed. Need for help was publicized through county agent's office, and as result many men on their day off from other jobs assisted with harvest. Men from the city assisted after hours, putting in 3 or 4 hours each evening. Others on vacation went to bentgrass fields to assist.

Home demonstration workers engaged in three major activities during month - food preservation, mattress and comforter construction, organization of counties for neighborhood leader system. Demonstrations on food preservation and conservation conducted in 17 counties, with total of 143 meetings attended by 3,732.

Agents have cooperated with county salvage committees and implement dealers in planning intensive scrap metal harvest drive. Representatives of central staff also met with State salvage committee and assisted in planning details of drive. Report from Klamath County, typical of State, shows 132 tons cast iron, 247 tons steel, nearly 5 tons of other metals.

As means of conserving transportation, community and local fairs have replaced usual county fairs where 4-H girls and boys exhibited results of year's work and had it judged for quality. In every instance emphasis was given to 4-H projects related to war effort -- meat production, food preservation, Victory Gardens, clothing.

SOUTH DAKOTA (September 1).--- Government-owned and farm-stored wheat made available for feed at reasonable price. At meeting of Extension, AAA, and Experiment Station personnel it was decided a popular wheat feeding leaflet was needed. "Wheat for Feed" prepared by Extension and Experiment Station personnel, and 20,000 copies printed for State-wide distribution.

Transportation survey being made. Schedules being taken by agents and neighborhood leaders. Publication of results will follow as soon as survey is completed.

Series of conferences for home agents on use and storage of home-produced vegetables and fruits conducted by extension nutritionist. Agents will conduct a similar series of demonstrations in counties. "Vegetables and Fruits in Your Meals" and "Eat the Right Food" printed and given State-wide distribution.

4-H achievement days held in practically all counties. Vegetable and garden exhibits among outstanding features of all.

TEXAS (September 1).--- Encouraging feeders to add from 150 to 200 pounds more weight to beef animals than has been practice in past years. Advising farmers on fattening and finishing cattle for market, and on feed lot equipment and management. Feeding demonstrations for county agents held in six districts, to be followed by demonstrations in counties.

More home gardens planted in State this year than ever before. Growers encouraged to store vegetables and to dry and process perishable varieties. Fall garden subject-matter material prepared for agents and demonstrations conducted at district meetings.

Program under way for enlarging backyard fruit plantings. Special packages of berries, figs, and peach trees being made up. Many nurserymen using extension recommendations in their catalogs and newspaper and radio advertising.

Emphasis being given to producing fish in farm ponds as a part of Food-for-Freedom program. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cooperating with Extension in State-wide program for stocking ponds. Conference at college brought together leaders and research men from State and Federal wild life services for 2-day discussion on construction and operation of farm ponds. More than 30,000 land owners cooperating in extension wildlife conservation program, and many giving much thought to fish production and farm ponds. At meetings held at five district 4-H Club encampments, 1,200 leading 4-H boys were given instructions and directions for farm pond work in their counties.



In 60 counties where surplus fat is being bought, people have been encouraged to save, care for it, and sell it. Homemakers given suggestions for cooking with left-over fat and making good use of fats in the home.

At wartime convention of Texas Home Demonstration Association it was announced that 21,121 rural Texans were trained in first aid during the year as result of work done by the association. Of those trained, 8,093 were members of clubs, 7,535 were women not members of clubs, and 5,493 were men. In addition, 7,283 have been trained in 592 home nursing classes. Practically every one of the 46,000 members is producing food for her own family, and most are producing a surplus. 31,709 club families are eating by Texas Food Standard, and 88,789 nonclub families have been reached with gospel of better nutrition. 12,388 pressure cookers tested or repaired by club women, and 2,551 sewing machines put in order for wartime service. While they work to win war the club women will study Atlantic Charter to prepare for a just and lasting peace.

Clothing repair and upkeep meetings held in 35 counties. Home cleaning of clothing emphasized.

Farm people aided in producing and preparing meats for home use. Demonstrations on use of lamb and mutton held in 7 counties included killing, cutting, and conserving of mutton from sheep which ordinarily would have been marketed as old ewes. Demonstrations also given on cutting and curing beef and pork. Vocational agriculture teachers in Liberty County instructed how to kill and cut beef for county school-lunch canning project.

State leader of Negro extension work reports 16,873 Negro farm families in State began production in livestock and poultry for first time this year. In addition, 23,853 Negro farm families are making definite efforts to produce vegetables, or increase size and productivity of existing gardens. 15,763 Negro farmers planted 57,611 acres of commercial peanuts, mostly on small acreages, for first time. During August a conference of 85 Negro extension agents and 71 county Victory Council leaders was held. Discussions and courses were conducted on leadership training for both agents and leaders, nutrition, maintenance and repair of farm machinery and household equipment. Leaders given instruction in foods and diets, gardening, food preservation, grain production, orchard work, poultry, meat and dairy work.

VERMONT (September 1).-- About 4,500 homemakers throughout State have received latest information on canning home-grown fruits and vegetables this summer at approximately 250 demonstration meetings. Pressure-cooker and hot-water-bath methods demonstrated, and explanation given of techniques of preparing food for freezer lockers, drying, krauting, and storing. Many families canning and storing fruits and vegetables for first time, and other families are raising and preserving several times as much as in the past.

Vermont Victory Garden program received national attention recently through appearance of its enrollment sticker on a Saturday Evening Post cover. In the picture appeared two mail boxes on the posts of which were Vermont Victory Garden enrollment stickers.

